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Meeting Lincoln

Original letters describing encounters with the 16th President of the United States

Surnames beginning with

B

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

71.2009.085.02179

Bancroft, John Cincinnati Wilmington, Del.

JOHN BANCROFT
WILMINGTON, DEL.

March 3d, 1932.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria St.,
Bustleton, Penn'a.

My Dear Mr. Terry:--

In reply to your letter of the 28th ultimo, requesting my recollection of our martyred President, Abraham Lincoln, I beg to say that it has always been a gratification to me to know that, as a boy, a little past five years of age, and living with my parents in Cincinnati, Ohio, during 1860-1861, I remember the excitement on the streets of the Presidential campaign, and of seeing the President-elect riding through the city in a parade, standing upright in an open barouche.

Francis B. Browne, in his "Every Day Life of Lincoln", refers to his visit in Cincinnati, which occurred on the 13th of February, 1861, on his way to Washington, and mentions that he stood upright in an open carriage, supported by a board that had been fixed for him on which to hold.

If you have not a copy of Francis Browne's book I would advise you to get one, as it contains a very interesting account of Lincoln's daily life.

I remember, as a boy, during Lincoln's campaign for his second term, when I was living in Philadelphia, the excitement and the parades and of my wearing Lincoln badges.

I, also, of course, remember distinctly the announcement of his assassination and the amazement and sorrow manifested by everyone, regardless of party affiliation.

I believe this is about all that I am able to give you, and if it will be of any value to your collection I will be much pleased.

Yours very sincerely,

John Bancroft

JOHN BANCROFT
WILMINGTON, DEL.

March 3d,1932.

Mr.Howard K.Terry,--2/

P.S.,- Since writing you earlier in the day,I thought you might be interested in knowing that,some years ago, while staying with my cousin,John Albert Bright,at "One Ash",Rochdale,England,- the former residence of his father,John Bright,- he showed me a cane that was given his father by Abraham Lincoln,and also a bed covering - something like a light quilt or coverlet,- which he told me was on the bed on which President Lincoln died. Mr.John Albert Bright has since died,and I think many of his books and souvenirs were deposited in a little library or museum in the town of Rochdale,but I do not know whether these Lincoln souvenirs are amongst them.

John Albert Bright's brother Philip,who resides at No.4 St.Andrews Place,Regent Park,London,would be able to tell you more about them,and perhaps he may have some letters belonging to his father that were written by Lincoln.

J.B.

Barber, Capt. A. D.

Ill.

W. F. HAMMA
NAUVOO, ILLINOIS

August 26, 1932

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Gentlemen:

I see by the paper where you are looking for the oldest person who saw or knew Lincoln.

I have a friend, Captain A. D. Barber who knew Lincoln. The Capt is 87 years old and while possibly you might find older ones in Illinois, that can recall more direct contact with Lincoln than he can. I have heard him talk at Springfield a number of different times.

Respectfully yours,
W F Hamma

Barker; W. H.H.

Kanawha 2/17/1913

Ed Journal

Having just read your call for Abraham Lincoln votes, I respond thereto perhaps a little late. My first Lincoln vote was cast in 1864, at ~~Memphis, Tenn~~, as a member of Co "K" (a Knoxville company) 3d Iowa Vol. Cavalry.

There were only Eight (8) votes cast for Geo. B. McClellan the "Peace at any price" - democrat, and Lincoln's opponent. Our picket lines were attacked during the

2/

and we were compelled to reinforce our pickets, and with some stock from the rebel muddels, came down for Mc Clellan, plainly showing the animus of the attack - namely, to keep us from voting. But it availed them naught, for we licked them with our carbines, and then helped with our ballots, ~~rolled~~ & do the same for their pet little Mack, but the truth of History records these facts - Very Respy

W. H. H. Barker

William Henry Harrison Baker's Recollections

W. H. H. Baker, of Freeport, tells thus his recollections of the Lincoln-Douglas debate:

"I well remember the debate between Lincoln and Douglass in 1858, though I was then but a lad of 10 years. Even at that age I 'sat up and took notice of' many a discussion on slavery and what the outcome would be prociding Lincoln should be elected to the presidential chair. One incident I wish to relate, for it is as fresh as ever in my memory. One day in the spring of 1858 there was a bunch of famers working on the public highway a short distance from the Luman Montague home, at Waddams Grove. While at work there a good old Buchanan democrat by the name of Michael Lawver opened a discussion as to whether A. Lincoln had brains enough to take care of the political situation at that time. The discussion got pretty hot. Mr. Montague taking things pretty seriously and likewise Mr. Lawver. The argument terminated in a clinch, Mr. Montague coming out best, as he tore Mr. Lawver's shirt off his back. However, Mr. Montague was a generous sort of fellow and he afterward loaned Mr. Lawver one of his own shirts to wear home.

"My memory is quite clear on the great debate between Lincoln and Douglas. I was not there, though I made a great effort to be there. Well do I remember the morning of August 27, 1858. Quite early in the day I heard a band playing off in the distance. The playing somewhat startled me. Then all of a sudden it came to me that this was the big day in Freeport, where there would be lots of bands and music of all kinds. What most attracted me at that time,however, was the two great political giants, and I was quite determined to go to Freeport and hear them. However, I knew nothing of the distance or direction, yet I started out, barefooted, with a straw hat in hand and in my shirt sleeves, toward the direction from which came the sound of the music. At Elroy I inquired about the distance to Freeport. They said it was eight miles. Then I became discouraged and decided that the best thing for me to do was to go back home, which was eight miles away. I reached my home at 6 p.m. the same day, a tired and disappointed boy. However, two years later when Lincoln was chosen as presidential nominee by the Republican party (in 1860) I became quite interested for a boy of twelve; so much so that I became an expert snare drummer and went to many of the Lincoln rallies, playing the drum.

"Two years later, August 26th, 1862, I enlisted in Company A 92nd, Illinois Volunteer Infantry, served three years during the war. I was in camp at Dalton, Ga., when the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee took place, in April, 1865.

"I have lived in Stephenson county 73 years, enjoy good health, can jump seven feet straight on the level. My home address is 601 N. Brewster avenue, Freeport. Come and see me."

SAMPLE OF
BANKERS' LINEN
13 lb. Folio

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Mr. Baker, who is the only known surviving snare drummer of the Lincoln-Douglas presidential campaign will be at the celebration in this city August 26th to play some of the old time music of the days of Lincoln and Douglas. He wishes to secure a good bass drummer and a fifer for the occasion. Persons interested can communicate with him by calling Telephone Red 686.

From - The Freeport (Ill.) Journal-Standard

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From - The Freeport (Ill.) Journal-Standard

Barr, A. M.

Mrs. Delaney's father was present at the hanging of the Conspirators.

I knew and talked with him very well.

He lived here in Philadelphia

H H Tawney

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-Standard

AMERICAN LIME & STONE COMPANY

Owned & Operated by, WARNER COMPANY, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

1518 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA
WILMINGTON
DELAWARE

122 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK
OLIVER BLDG.
PITTSBURGH

Executive Offices, BELLEFONTE, PA.

February 26, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria Street,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Terry:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 24th in reference to the mementos I have of the murder of Abraham Lincoln. These I mailed yesterday by registered mail to Mrs. Delaney consisting of four pieces of the ropes used in the hanging of the conspirators of Abraham Lincoln, one other piece without any marks, which I am inclined to think was the rope which hanged Wirtz, Commander of Andersonville, together with a newspaper printed July 1865, a cut of Andersonville prison, and a bunch of photogtaphs of the various men and officers on duty in the Veteran Reserve Corps at the close of the war, or about the time that Lincoln was assassinated. These I have placed in the care of Mrs. Delaney, anticipating that they will have good care. No doubt she will be very glad to have you look them over.

Yours very truly,

A. M. Barr,
Box 252,
Bellefonte, Pa.

P. S. My father was wounded at Bristoe Station, near Chancelorsville.

Barr, A. M.

AMERICAN LIME & STONE COMPANY

Owned & Operated by, WARNER COMPANY, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

1616 WALNUT STREET
PHILADELPHIA
WILMINGTON
DELAWARE

122 EAST 42ND STREET
NEW YORK
OLIVER BLDG.
PITTSBURGH

Executive Offices, BELLEFONTE, PA.

June 29th, 1931.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
9528 Wisteria Street,
Bustleton,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Terry:

Some little while ago the writer received a letter from you in reference to some mementos connected with the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. We wrote you at the time we had sent a package to Mrs. Delaney, but we have never learned whether you saw the contents or not; but we presume you did. I am somewhat interested in the war record of the Hon. A. C. Gibson, and would very much like to see a copy of his memoirs. At the present time I am unable to recollect any one of the old soldiers who personally came in contact with Abraham Lincoln. The old soldiers are very near a thing of the past, especially those who enlisted at the beginning of the war.

Trusting you had the pleasure of examining the box in the possession of Mrs. Delaney, I beg to remain,

Yours very truly,

A. M. Barr.

Barrett, James H. Ford's Theatre Nantucket Mass.

Nantucket.
April 7th 1930.

Kind Sir,

I am writing in answer to your letter to my father as directed by him.
He is in his eighty sixth year.
I served two years in 60d, twentieth massachusetts and was discharged.
Then served one year in 60d. tenth reserves,
Was on duty at time Lincoln was shot and guarded at lane back of hotel where Booth escaped.
Was there at Booths gang, Dr. Paine, Dr. Mud, Mr. Schwat, were brought in.
Guarded over Secretary Steward a week.
Then at Carol prison and at

the Arsenal all three cells.
where the prisoners were.

Respectfully yours,

[illegible]

WAS AT FORD'S THEATER.

Editor National Tribune: In your issue of May 9 a little sketch was given in reference to the assassination of Lincoln at Ford's Theater, April 14, 1865. We have here in Nantucket a Civil War veteran, James H. Barrett, who was a member of Co. A, 6th Regiment V. R. C. He was on guard at Ford's Theater the night that Lincoln was shot.—J. F. Murphy, P. O. Box 493, Nantucket,, Mass.

National Tribune
6-13-29

Referred to
REC'D SEP 10 1932
Answered

Barton

Meridian Miss
Sept 8/32

Lincoln passed through
My town on his way
To Washington D.C.
for his inauguration
He had passed the
night before in Columbus
Ohio a near by City.
Had a reception at the
State House and when
he came out of his Car
to speak to the great crowd
he carried his arm in
a "sling" as the Columbus
Crowd shook his hand
So roughly
the Columbus crowd
& got to shake his hand

Barton, Mrs. Joanne

Coschton, Ohio
on way to inauguration

Meridian, Miss.

[illegible] DEPARTMENT

I was born in the
State of Michegan,
reared in Ohio.
In 1864 married my
Soldier sweet-heart, and
went to the Grand
State of Illinois, where
I lived until 1920,
Had four sons who
were volunteers in the
Spanish war, and one
son is a retired Major
of the world. I am in
my 95th year in good
health and still
very much alive.
Mrs Joanna Barton,
Meridian Miss,

Bayliss, Clara Kern Springfield - Funeral

Mr Howard K. Terry

Philadelphia. Pa.

Dear Sir;

Complying with your request; - You probably have the list of the few surviving witnesses to that last opening of the Lincoln Casket . One of them- Joseph Freeman - died June 12" of this year.

I was in Springfield during the rebuilding of the monument and recall that one of the piles of numbered blocks and rubbish near the foundation was quietly pointed out to me as the one under which the casket was hidden while the work was going on. My husband was a trustee of the Monument and the Lincoln Home, but had to be out of the city on the morning when the casket was brought into the memorialchamber of the new monument and opened; so I went in his place . mrs.

Johnson, the custodian's wife , was the only other woman present, There was no mistaking the features, tho they were not quite as much like bronze as at the former time the casket had been opened, so Major Johnson said. The pillow had shrunken and the head had fallen back just a trifle. There was the suggestion of a black beard, a distinct black tie on a white shirt-front. butover the coat ware specks of yellow mould with fine ,short threads of white mold rising out of it.

Iretired to a platfotm at the end of the room whence i could survey the scene and the many portraits of Lincoln which lined the walls; ^nd there came to me the weird feeling that Lincoln himself was looking down from the walls into his own casket and upon the little group gathered about it.

Very truly yours

Clara Kern Bayliss

Berry, James W. Sullivan, Ill. Decatur, Ill.

Dalton City Ills
Nov 30. 1931

Miss Minnie Dill

Noticing your ad in the Decatur Herald asking for information of President Lincoln I am writing to tell you that my Grandfather Judge James Elder was a Personal friend of Lincolns in august 1858 when Lincoln spoke in Sullivan there being no R Road my Grandfather sent me with his carriage to Windsor Illinois to bring Lincoln to Sullivan and he and Douglass spoke in Sullivan on the same day, and I

remember how Lincoln looked, a very tall dark complexioned man and my Grand father and wife entertained Lincoln in their home on that day. Aug 12, 1858. as they were very strong republicans they had pictures of Lincoln on their walls I was about fourteen yrs of age.

James W Berry
Dalton City
Illinois

Bikle, Prof.
Billheimer, Mrs. T. D.

Gettysburg, Address

REV. LUTHER B. HAFER
~~XXX Carlisle Street~~
Gettysburg, Pa.

Gettysburg, Pa.

34 E. Lincoln Avenue,
January 11, 1932.

Dear Mr. Terry:

Your letter to Commander Frank A. Waybright, of Gettysburg Camp NO. 112, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, has been handed to me, as I was chairman of the meeting on November 19. Mr. Waybright asks me to explain to you that your letter was unintentionally mislaid, and not purposely neglected.

As to the program, we had no printed program, so I am not able to send you one. This is an annual event with us, but we try to avoid expense, and so made no printing bill.

There are a number of men in Gettysburg who heard the Lincoln address, but they are getting old, and it might be a little difficult to get letters from them. Prof. Bikle is still living, but altogether disable for work. Mrs. T. C. Billheimer, widow of the late Dr. T. C. Billheimer of the Gettysburg Seminary, is one whoserved as a nurse at the time of the battle. She saw Lincoln, and is given a place of honor when she can be present at and special patriotic event. Danial A. Skelly is another, who has memoirs of the battle about to be published. He is not in good health, and it might be too much to ask him to write. He had been 49 years secretary of the masonic lodge here. Mrs. M. O. Smith, Hanover, Pa., as a young girl sang in the choir at the dedication of the cemetery Nov. 19, 1863, and was kissed by Lincoln. Se is an enthusiastic Lincoln admired, and has dedicated her home in Hanover as a Lincoln Shrine.

With best wishes, I am,

Very truly yours,

L. B. Hafer

Bikle, Philip M. Gettysburg Add. Gettysburg, Pa.

PHILIP M. BIKLE
145 LINCOLN AVENUE W.
GETTYSBURG, PA.

June 22, 1928.

Mr. Howard K. Terry,

Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Yes, I heard President Lincoln deliver his memorable address at the dedication of the National Cemetery on Nov. 19, 1863. I was within thirty feet of him. His delivery was deliberate and distinct. It was also loud and he was heard by more of the great mass there assembled than was Edward Everet, the orator of the day, who preceded him. I do not remember whether he was applauded. If he was not, I think it was because the occasion was so serious and possibly because his speech was so brief.

I was then a sophomore in Gettysburg College, 18 years old. Coming away from the exercises, a fellow student said,"Bik, what do you think of Lincoln's speech?" My reply, after some deliberation, was: "Well, it suited the occasion, his language was fine, and the sentiment was excellent, but there was nothing remarkable about it." Why I added that "but" I don't know unless it was because I was a sophomore and felt that I had to be critical. Very truly,

P. M. Bikle

* * * *

SEEMS fair enough that Gettysburg College should pin LL. D. upon H. W. Bikle.

A good many men who are honored with the degree of doctor of laws know little or nothing about any laws. It is different with Mr. Bikle.

Of course he is known first of all in Philadelphia as a first-class railroad lawyer. He's more than that—he's a student and a scholar.

Mr. Bikle's dad has long been a professor at Gettysburg and was a student there during the Civil War. He is one of the few men living competent to give an intelligent report of Lincoln's address at Gettysburg, which Professor Bikle heard.

He and a classmate came, saw, listened and walked away. They were not deeply impressed by what President Lincoln had said.

But nobody else was until they had read and reread that address. Yet that pair of college boys knew then that Lincoln was far superior to the pompous bombast of Senator Everett, the professional orator.

Before Dr. Bikle, Jr., became a lawyer he was an instructor at Bryn Mawr College, when the pay for a year about equaled what a good plasterer now gets in a month.

* * * *

Billheimer, Mrs. T. C. Gettysburg, Pa.
Gettysburg Address

Gettysburg. February 6th. 1932.

Dear Sir.

I received your letters and in my simple way tried to tell you my recolections of the battle. I know Dr. Bickle and Mr. Skelly. Have you the name, Captain Calvin Gilbert. He told me he was in Washington when President Lincoln was here but he knew Lincoln and shook hands with him in Washington. He lives 144

Springs Ave Gettysburg. He will soon be 93 years old.

Have you, Leander Warren 74. Springs Ave. Gettysburg Both are neighbors of mine. If you come to Gettysburg I would be pleased to have you call. I was 90 years old on 2nd of February.

Yours sincerely

Mrs. J. C. Billheimer.

Gettysburg. February 6th 1932.

I received your letter and will try to tell you a few things I remember about the battle of Gettysburg. We lived here at the time, on High St. next to the catholic church. My father Revr Jacob Ziegler was pastor of the Reformed church. After the retreat on the 1st day we saw a soldier dead on pavement and 2 dead horses near. There were many wounded soldiers, brought to the catholic

and to all the churches. While we were in the cellar a number of soldiers broke into our dining room, and when father went up they asked if they might go down. It was not long till they were taken prisoners by Col Worth a confederate. While in the cellar we saw some Generals outside the house in consultation. Once we heard the catholic bell toll, and it sounded very solemn. Many died in the

church, and after the 3 days fight they dug a trench in a grave yard across the St. and buried them. On Sunday the Catholic church had to be cleaned, and I helped with others to scrub it. Soon it was filled again with wounded. We had one sick soldier in our house 7 weeks. He was from Lewzern County. His mother came and took care of him. We were kept busy helping care for the wounded, feeding them, and baking bread. We ran out of flour, and one of fathers mem-bers in the country thought of

us and brought in a bag of flour. We were baking bread Friday when the dreadful cannonading was going on. A sick soldier asked my sister to read the 14th chapter of John to him which she did. One of the 3 days I stood at our door and saw the 11th Corps. running past to get in the fight, I think to Barlows knoll. In a short time they had a hospital, and the sick were taken thire. Ground was bought for a National cemetery, and bodies buried there. I well remember how pleased I was to shake hands with President Lincoln and hear him speak. I always think of him as having a very kind face.

Mrs. J. C. Billheimer.

Billington, John Springfield Office Springfield, Ill.

I have known the [illegible] for
[illegible] from the door, [illegible] on the door [illegible]
and the [illegible] + crowds [illegible]
to have it [illegible] with silk [illegible]
and tassels and [illegible]
in front of the [illegible]

[illegible]

Nevertheless [illegible]
but, as he said [illegible]
very kind of [illegible]
will [illegible]

The evening [illegible] of the
death of Mrs Bynum Hyman [illegible]
a day [illegible]
in that [illegible]

[illegible]
to receive [illegible]

Yours Sincerely

John Billington

[illegible]

Blackington, O. N. Army of the Potomac Alexandria, Va. Lime Rock, Conn.

Lime Rock. Conn.
Oct. 19, 1932.

Dear Sir:—

With 75,000 other boys in blue, I saw President Lincoln, as he reviewed a part of the army of the Potomac in April 1862 near Alexandria Va.

Yours truly.
O. N. Blackington

Blackington, Oliver N. Washington, D.C. soldier Lime Rock, Conn.

Lime Rock, Conn.
August 15/31.

Mr. H. K. Terry. Dear Sir:-

I hardly know just what to write you; the fact is, tis true Dear "Old Abe" He reviewed Genl McClellans' Army, composed of about 80,000 in the early Spring of 1862, of which I was one of that number, although I presented Arms. I was not near enough to shake hands or speak to him. He with his Staff rode down the long Line, we as good Soldiers could not Cheer, but wanted too, it is not necessary, to describe him, I thought he look rather sad Yet may have been we realized that we were about to go into, what Genl Sherman said was. "——" We were marched soon after. By the Grand-Stand & of course I saw him a second time. Any one this Army now living, could give you some such reply,

My term of Service in the Civil War. was 5yrs. 7mo. & 8 day 4th Maine Inf. 2 yrs 7 Mo. 8 Days U.S.C. Inf 3 yr. 8 days.

This is written on Hand made Paper, a product of Lime Rock, Conn. & is of the 1st Cloth made, guaranteed to neither Wear, Tare or fade for 1000 years.

Respectfully Yours,
Oliver N. Blackington

Bl----k, A.

[illegible]

Knoxville
Marion Co Iowa
Came here in 1857
I was a Democrat
day and [illegible]
the Republican Party
Formed I helped
[illegible]
[illegible]
time I will say to you
that I voted for Lincoln
and I am not ashamed
of it - Would like to
[illegible]
Yours truly [illegible]

Bockius, Jacob

Germantown, Pa.

NATHAN G. GOODMAN
HISTORICAL JOURNALIST
[redacted] GERMANTOWN
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
301 WEST SCHOOL LANE

12 December 1931

Mr. Howard K. Terry,
Bistleton, Pa.

Dear Sir :

Mr. Jacob Bockius, 44 W. Coulter Street, Germantown, remembers Abraham Lincoln. Mr. Bockius is now about eighty-five years of age.

Have you been in touch with Julia Taft Bayne? She played with Tad Lincoln in the White House during the war. You can address her c/o Little, Brown Co., 34 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

I trust that this is the information requested in your letter of the 9th.

Yours cordially,

Nathan G. Goodman

Dr. Nathan G. Goodman
g

Galesburg, Ill.

Bond, Mrs. Minda A. — Abungdon, Ill.

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name Mrs Minda A Bond

Present Address 107 W Jackson St Abungdon Ills

Date of Birth Year 1850 Month October 29 Day

Place of Birth Vermillion Co Ill

Where you saw Lincoln Galesburg Ill

When you saw Lincoln 1860 at a speaking

Remarks: I was with my father & the street was so crowded we did not get all he said I have always been grateful he was such a staunch republicon I had 3 brothers in the Civil war & the oldest one drafted his wife being an invalid he hired a substitute all 4 came home with honors

Bond, Mrs. Minda A Galesburg St. Abungdon, Ill.

Referred to _____
RECD AUG 23 1932

Abingdon Ill Aug Bond 82

To the Lincoln national life foundation

Dear Sir I for one saw Abraham Lincoln in 1861. I was about ten years old my Father Isaac Allison took me to Galesburg Illinois to a big rally where Abraham Lincoln was to Speak that day. I remember seeing him arrive at a great crowd of People on the platform my Father was a staunch republican & I have always held to that party myself I saw three of my Brothers start off for the Civil war the youngest one 15 the next 18 and the next still older & the forth one grafted having a invalid wife he hired a substitute. they all got home safe with honorable discharges all passed to the great Beyond to meet their God & Sam the only one left of ten children my Father & mother came from Virginia to Illinois on horse back with 2 children yours truely Mrs Minda A Bond 82 years old

Thanking you for any
Rembrance you will send
me. I will be so glad for
my Childrens sake
Mrs Minda A Bond
104 West Jackson St
Abingdon Ill

Boos, John E.

Albany, N.Y.
June 25, 1931.

Dear Mr. Terry,-

I was very much surprised to get your letter this morning, as I believed I was the only person collecting Lincoln in this way. I am thankful you are doing the same, because I think every experience of the Great Leader should be preserved. I was born an abolitionist, although my father was only 5 years old when the war started, and had I lived I would have worn a blue uniform if I had been old enough to enlist.

I am sorry to say I cannot give you any addresses as I am afraid nearly all of those whose autograph I have are gone, except the little group on Mr. Smyth's letter sheet, all of which very kindly answered me. I have a very nice letter from Mr. Hermott, although I never met him. I commenced my collection about 20 years ago and received a great many answers to my letters, but I have been getting very few in the last 3 years. If I do find a name in the newspapers and write to the person, the letter never comes back, because I suppose he is too old to feel like answering a stranger.

Nearly all my autographs are on sheets this size, I smoothing the paper. Then I try to get a little information about the person, which I typewrite, put with the autograph letter, and when I get a number of them I take the sheets to a binder who makes a book of them. I have them bound in red leather, with the title "Father Abraham's Soldiers", and they are making a very fine Lincoln library. I also have a Lincoln pamphlet bound in the back, hoping that some day the collection will make a fine reference library.

I imagine you know far more about collecting than I ever did, but if I can give you any suggestions of mine that will help I will gladly do it. If I can find any duplicate pamphlets and you should want them you will be welcome to them.

Yours truly,
John E. Boos,
21 Dudley Heights.

Brace, Mrs. Julia F. Alyona, Iowa

Lincoln-Douglas Debates
Freeport

Alyona Iowa
Sept 17 - 91

Mr H. K. Leary
Bucklen Penn

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 9th inst received contents noted, and in reply state that, at the time of the Lincoln-Douglas debate I was 12 yrs old. This was in Aug 1858 and the only time Lincoln was at Freeport to my knowledge as history records. My father attended the debate and I remember the account he gave. and history corroborates my father's statements. Was living near Freeport during the civil war; and those were stirring times, full of great aches and sorrow. The history of that Co. (Stephenson) states that Stark Co sent more than her quota to the front

in and to Lincolns calls -.
I came to Freeport Sat morn
after Lincolin had been shot
with - my father and entering
the city we noticed Lincolns
picture framed hung on the front
of houses draped in black
and father could not under
stand why this was done
and said "soon as we arrive
down town I'll find out". He
did - soon the flags were draped
from windows to window on the
2nd & 3d floors of the business
bldgs and over the doors also..
In 67 I came with the "boy in
blue" I had pledged to walk
thro' life together - and all
else I know about Lincoln
or his wife I have read in
history. Lincoln was a great tho
humble man - and his life exemplified - his own words. Charity for
all and malice towards none.
I cheerfully give all I know about
Lincoln who tho dead still lives
in the hearts of the American people
are very thankful for the days
that came to me so full of problems
to solve - for the right.
Sincerely Mrs Julia F. Peace

Bradbury, Lawson... VETERANS ADMINISTRATION Bath, N.Y.

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

BATH BRANCH

BATH, NEW YORK
Feb. 16, 1931

To: Mr. Howard K. Terry, Bustleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

Subject: Bradbury, William H.
Lawson, Sylvester

My dear Sir:

The above named men have had your letters asking for their personal contacts with Abraham Lincoln, and they have asked me to reply for them.

I cannot discover that either man had any specific encounter which you could use in your data; but of course, each man is proud of having seen Mr. Lincoln and glad to tell about it.

Mr. Bradbury enlisted in 1861 in the 2nd New York Regiment from Troy. He saw Mr. Lincoln in the year 1864 many times in Washington, D.C., but not to have any conversation. Mr. Lawson went into service when the war broke out, enlisting in the 71st New York. He served in the first battle of Bull Run and was present at Appomattox. He saw Mr. Lincoln in Washington and in front of Petersburg and was much impressed, at the latter, place, by Mr. Lincoln's kind expression and by his long, lean awkwardness as he rode a small horse while reviewing the troops.

This is about all I could glean from either man. I shall be glad to do anything further if you need it.

Cordially,
Julia A. Beekman

(Mrs.) Julia A. Beekman
Social Service Worker.

Approved

Surgeon.

Brady,Wolford,... VETERANS ADMINISTRATION Bath, N.Y.

NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS

BATH BRANCH

BATH, NEW YORK
Feb. 5, 1931

To: Howard K. Terry, 9528 Wisteria St., Bustleton, Philadelphia, Pa.

Subject: Civil War Veterans Who Knew Lincoln

My dear Sir:

Your letter of January 28th, to the Governor of the Home, has been sent to this office for reply.

There are several men in the hospital who either saw, or shook hands with Abraham Lincoln, and these are their names: Captain Brady, Company 5; Christopher Wolford, Thomas Knight, Sylvester Lawson, Wm. H. Bradbury, Charles Ford, James Dillon, and Julius Jenkins. They are in the hospital, and are keen to tell their personal experiences with Mr. Lincoln.

I shall be glad to do anything further in the matter if you wish me to.

Cordially,

Julia A. Beekman

(Mrs.) Julia A. Beekman
Social Service Worker

Approved

Surgeon.

Brasfield, Thomas H. Springfield, Ill.

624 So State St
Springfield Ill.
June 2nd 1931.

Mr. Howard E. Terry.
Bustletown Pa.

Dear Sir:

your letter of 15th inst. was received June 17th that Memorable day when Pres. Hoover rededicated Lincoln's Tomb, I was one of the 17 honored guest to occupy seats of honor, at the Tomb. While I had never seen Lincoln, I marched in his Campaign in 1860.

celebrating his election, My husband Thomas H Brasfield saw him a number of times he always spoke of him as having such a kindly face, At the Tomb. Wed. I sat beside Mrs. Charlotte Desousa. she is 91 years of age - 1205 E. Jefferson st. dressmaker for Mrs A. Lincoln she is well preserved and has a good memory. Mr. J R. Diller 511 west Carpenter st. Springfield is the only living person who had

his picture taken with
A Lincoln, he said he
would be glad to give
you any information
he could, if you would
write to him, Dr. John H
Matthews, Blue Mound
Ills, was a playmate of
Robt Lincoln, Leon
P. Hopkins, 431 New st
Springfield, attended
Lincoln's funeral
services and opened and
sealed the Casket the
last time Lincoln's
body was moved. Thos
Benton Shoaff aged 84

Shelbyville Ill, with his three brothers, great grandsons of A. Lincoln's step mother, Sarah Bush Johnson. I met all these people last Wednesday at the rededication of the Tomb, and think these people will gladly give you any information you wish.

Yours, very truly,
Mrs. Cynthia Camp
Brasfield.

OFFICE OF
JOHN J. BRENHOLT
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
COMMERCIAL BUILDING
ALTON, ILL.

Nov. 19, 1931.

Howard K. Terry,

Bustleton, Pa.

Dear Sir:

I received your letter in due course and was reminded of a long time ago, and in reply to the same, I wish to state, that the first time I saw Mr. Lincoln was in 1865: I was a student at Illinois College at that time and went to Springfield to view the remains of the martyred President lying in state at the State House in Springfield, Illinois. It was of much interest to me to look upon the great man as he lay there a corpse.

The next time that I saw Mr. Lincoln was in 1901 when his remains were removed from their other resting place to a new one provided for his body. There was no change whatever in his appearance: it was the same Old Abe without any question. I was acting as Governor as stated by you in your letter at the time he was placed in his last resting place. I had never seen Mr. Lincoln in his life time.

I am much obliged to you for your letter because it reminded me of some of the most important events connected with the history of our country.

Yours very truly,

John J. Brenholt

Brenholdt, John J. Springfield, Ill. Galesburg, Ill.
Burial

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M. F. CLINE, ASSISTANT CASHIER
H. E. HANLON, ASSISTANT CASHIER

Sept 16 - 1931

Mr W H. Terry
Bruceton Penn

My Dear Sir

Have your favor of Sept 9 -
and Note your inquiry about the
other Parties who was Present when the
Remains of Mr Lincoln was laid away -
Hon John J Brenholdt - Write Mr Jos Freeman Springfield Ill
Hon Jos Freeman Springfield Ill
Mrs Alfred Bayless write } Mrs E C Slocumb
Minneapolis Minn
4106 Blaisdell Ave

I might say that Mrs Slocumb is my daughter
Just mention that I suggested writing to her

Are you intending to Publish

Sincerely Yours

M O Williamson

~~Bridly~~, J.W.
Bridge

HEADQUARTERS
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Department of Oklahoma

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Junior Vice Commander—W. D. Cole, Oklahoma City
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R. L. JOHNSON, Tonkawa, Okla.
N. D. McKINLEY, Union Soldiers Home, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Asst. Adjt. General—A. C. Sims, Oklahoma City
1628 W. 10th Street Phone 3-7875

Enid, Okla., 2—4, 1931

Mr Howard K Terry

Dear Sir

Yours of Jan 29th Received contents noted. I never met Abaham Lincoln, but I had the great privilege of voting for him in 1864 for his second term as President of which I am very proud. You ask about the report that J Wilks Booth had escaped and had lived in Enid. We had a man living here that claimed to be Booth but he was undoubtedly a fraud. We also had a man living here F E Hills (who died a few weeks ago) that was well acquainted with Booth and saw him buried he said this man was not Booth. You request a list of the Posts in my Dept. I have not the names of all of the Posts at hand but can give you the number and town of each remaining Post. Grand Post no 1 Okla City. Guthrie Hartcraft no 2. Bristow no 4. Stillwater no 7 Edmond no 10, Hennessy no 12, El Reno 13, McAlester 16, Homestead 18 Enid Irwin McDowell no 19. Ponca City 24 Alva 28, Muskogee 36, Pawnee 38, Perry 43. (Over)

Newkirk 46, Miami 48, Sapulpa 49, Tulsa 51,
Cushing 54 Ardmore 55 Blackwell 62
Tonkawa 78, Stroud 81, Anadarko 97, Lawton 105
Lamont 114.

Thanking you for your well wishes
I remain Yours Respectfully

J W Bridges
Dept Commander Okla G A R

Bright, Philip

TELEPHONE, 4397 MUSEUM.

4.ST ANDREW'S PLACE.
REGENT'S PARK.N.W.1.

April 8/1932.

Dear Sir,

My father never met Abraham Lincoln, & I do not know that he ever received any letter from him. A walking stick which belonged to Lincoln was given to my father by a friend of Lincoln, whose name I cannot recall: this stick is now in the Bright Memorial Room at Rochdale, together with many other articles which belonged to my father.

I am sorry I cannot help you with

the investigation which you are making.

I am dear Sir.

Your faithfully.

Philip Bright

Howard K. Terry Esq.

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1308 N. 16th Street
LaFayette, Indiana

Aug, 18th ,1932

Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.

Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Sirs.

The former editor of the Reynolds Tribune gave me a news item which you sent him asking about the oldest living person who saw or knew Lincoln. As I am very much interested in the life of Lincoln I hope to be of service to you. There is an old Civil War Soldier near my home who saw Lincoln in 1861 he is well up in his eightys. His name is Amos Brocies 1405½ Howell St, LaFayette, Ind. If you write to him you can probably get more information than I can give you about him an seeing Lincoln.

I have a Lincoln library valued at ever $400 I have five scrap books filled with Lincoln material and any service I can be to you as pertaining to Lincoln feel free to call on me for such. If you have any material you think I could use I would be glad to receive it. Attahhed is a Lincoln book mark I printed up myself. Looking foward to being of service to you in the furture.

Yours truly

Jack Fleming

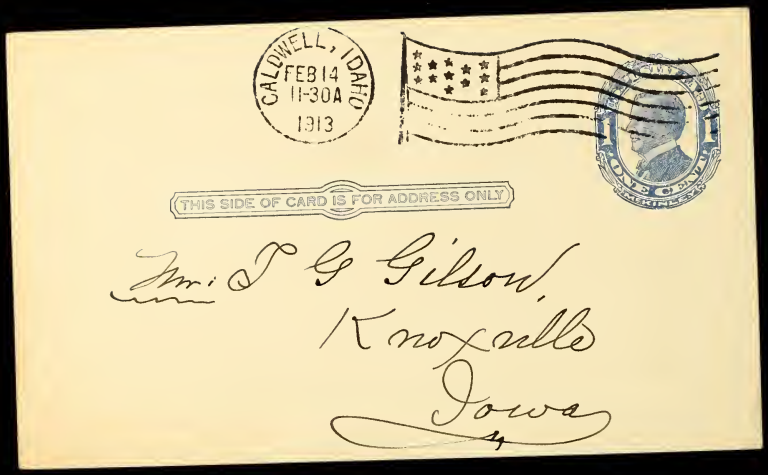
RECD
Award
LIFE

Brooks, F. J.
BROOKS

Caldwell Feby 13th 1913

Bro Gilson We are all well. Weather fine. every thing running smooth. I voted for Lincoln both times. I am 84 Yrs old

Yours &c F J Brooks


CALDWELL, IDAHO
FEB 14
11-30A
1913
ONE CENT
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY
Mrs. T G Gibson
Knoxville
Iowa

Brown, Sara M. | Sanitary Fair Independence Hall | Cincinnati, Ohio

Br. v 87

"I Saw Lincoln"

Full Name Mrs Sara M. Brown

Present Address 512 Vine Street Cincinnati Ohio

Date of Birth Year 1840 Month June Day 25

Place of Birth Philadelphia, Pa.

Where you saw Lincoln Sanitary Fair and Independence Hall Philadelphia Pa.

When you saw Lincoln 1863 and 1865

Remarks: -

I do not recall definitely whether it was 1862 or 1863 the first time but it was during the Sanitary Fair -

Brown, Mrs. Sara M. Sanitary Fair, Independence Hall after dead Cincinnati, Ohio

Lincoln National Life Foundation
Ft Wayne Ind.-

In response to the request for the oldest person living in Ohio, who saw Abraham Lincoln, I write.

While I do not feel equal to the trip to Ft. Wayne, Ind. should I be the oldest. I cannot refrain from proudly telling of two events that I value so highly above the many happenings in my life.

I was 87 years old June 25 932.

Philadelphia is the place

of my nativity and there I grew to womanhood.

I had the fortune of seeing President Lincoln twice. The first time I saw Lincoln was at the Great Sanitary Fair (Christian Commission) held in Philadelphia during the Civil War.

Lincoln was borne upon the shoulders of men, towering high above the crowd, symbolic of the way he always rose in the great problems of life he was so many times called upon to solve.

The look upon his face was of great care, as he carried the weight of the welfare of our nation as he strove to

unite the North and South in a cause of peace and justice.

The second time that I saw him was when he lay so peacefully sleeping the last sleep.

Lincoln lay in State in the Independence Hall, which was surrounded by ropes and heavily guarded, except, the passage for the great number that thronged past viewing their beloved President.

I wish to recount how fortunate I was with my girl friend and brother. As we stood waiting, moving slowly with the crowd, a policeman raised the rope and pleasantly bade us enter for which we were most grateful as there were many who did not get in during the limited time and we were not hurried

as we stood viewing that dear face - all care and turmoil were removed and only calm and tranquil peace rested.

I have in possession a copy of an original letter written by Lincoln for which the holder, George L. Stuart was offered one thousand dollars for the original.

With best wishes for the success of this dedication, paying honor to this great hero and Martyr.

Sincerely

Mrs Sara Brown

[illegible] Vine St.

Fairhill Cincinnati Ohio.

August 30. 1932.

FRANK E. BULLARD
1501 SOUTH 46th STREET
PHILADELPHIA

Landing Party on
James River

Phila., Pa.

Feby 2 5th. 32

Mr. Howard K. Perry
Bethlehem, Pa
Dear Sir:

Yours of 2nd. I was in the navy, under an the time he remembers. was serving on the U.S. 'Swasey' in the James River.

Was in a landing party. and saw Mr Lincoln at that time and place. My recollection of him fits with all the description I have seen.

I cannot recall the name of a living comrade.

My life until retirement was always & my recollection of the war. in any details is quite hazy.

Yours Truly
Frank E. Bullard

Marion Ill
Jan. 13th 1923

Dr. Louis A. Warren
Fort Wayne Ind.

Dear Sir.

I see in the papers where you are collecting the names of the persons who heard and saw Lincoln and Douglas make one of their debates in 1858. We were living in Charleston Coles County Ill. in 1858. My father and family and I heard the debate at the Fair grounds I was a boy 12 years old at the time

Very Truly
William H. Bundy

P.S My Father was Dr. S.H. Bundy.

HENRY C. BUTCHER
986 DREXEL BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

September 24,1930.

Mr.Howard K.Terry,
9528 Wisteria Street,
Bustleton,Phila.Pa.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of September 2nd, came during my absence and in reply, am pleased to state that I am still alive and in good health.

Regarding our dear President Lincoln, I had the honor in 1861 of being Captain of the Marion Light Infantry Cadet Company, the only one in the city at that time fully equipped. We had our uniform and the use of the State Fencibles Armory, located nearly opposite Independence Hall, and of their equipment, Colonel Page was then Commander of the State Fencibles.

We were appointed receiving escort at Independence Hall, when President Lincoln came to hoist the flag over same. I had my Company drawn up in two lines, from curb to the entrance and as he arrived, we of course presented arms. When he came out of the Hall after hoisting the flag, we saluted him again, and he came to me and said--"Captain you have a fine body of young men here, we shall probably need you all." After shaking hands with me, he joined his companions and left us.

Shortly after that time, I was preparing to go to Harvard College, but instead of doing so, when President Lincoln called for 300,000 more men, I volunteered for the three year service and joined the Anderson Cavalry,which was the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry.

The last time I saw President Lincoln, was after the battle of Antietam, when he, General McClellan and Mr.Allan Pinkerton, were photographed standing in front of General McClellan's tent. I think a copy of this photograph is in the Trophy Room of the Union League. I was escort of General Baldy Smith, Chief of Cavalry, during the battle of Antietam that morning.

Yours sincerely,

Henry C. Butcher

Girard's Talk of the Day

CONGRESSIONAL snoopers got busy after the Civil War and tried to make capital out of Jay Cooke's profits on Government bonds.

It proved a complete political dud. Figures showed that the Philadelphia banker had made a decidedly modest profit out of his tremendous energies to market Uncle Sam's debts.

Then, after the panic of 1873 put about a third of our railroads in the lap of financial undertakers, another band of snoopers got busy with Mr. Cooke's affairs.

One Hallet Kilbourn was yanked before Congress to shed light upon a real estate transaction in Washington which was supposed to involve the Philadelphia banker.

Mr. Kilbourn refused to show his books and the House of Representatives ordered the Sergeant-at-Arms to take him to jail.

* * * *

UP TO the end of that inning Congress had done all of the heavy hitting.

Then Mr. Kilbourn stepped to the bat and busted the ball clear out of the lot.

He brought suit against the Sergeant-at-Arms and a jury awarded him $70,000.

When that case was appealed up to the United States Supreme Court the verdict against the minion of Congress was upheld.

You can't collect from a Congressman in Washington. The Constitution makes that clear enough.

At the same time the Supreme Court held that an employee of Congress is no better than common folks and must pay the price for false arrest and such.

* * * *

PERHAPS all this fits in somehow with the case of our own rotund Sheriff "Tom" Cunningham.

You remember that he refused to tell the Senate where he got that $50,000 he gave to the Vare campaign fund.

Much bluster from the Senate, but as yet nobody has arrested Sheriff "Tom."

Perhaps some of the Senators have read that opinion of the United States Supreme Court in the Hallet Kilbourn case.

Justice Field of the Supreme Court said of that opinion:

"It will stand for all time as a bulwark against the invasion of the rights of a citizen to protection in his private affairs against the unlimited scrutiny of investigations by a Congressional committee."

Which implies that there is some defense against Senatorial snoopers.

* * * *

DEATH of Christian C. Febiger, long one of its picturesque veterans, removed one of the four oldest members of the Union League.

He had been a member for sixty years and was once one of the officers of that organization.

Henry Clay Butcher has for some time been the Father of the Union League, having become a member sixty-five years ago.

John M. Kennedy, Jr., was elected a member four years later, in 1869, while H. C. Brown came in a few months before Mr. Febiger, in 1870.

David E. Dallaur, realtor of wide reputation, and Walter Wood, one of the eminent ironmasters of America, were able in 1873 to weather the terrific panic of that year and pay their initiation fee into the League's treasury.

Mr. Butcher is one of the very few survivors of the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry Regiment, whose annual reunions were discontinued a couple of years ago after regular meetings for more than half a century.

* * * *

THANKS to the sharp rivalries of companies it costs too much to do the Nation's immense insurance business.

The companies pay too much to agents who bring in the insurance policies.

That is the great reason why British companies can do the same work much cheaper than American companies do it.

The rule in England has been that when you want insurance you go to an insurance office, same as you go to a bank when seeking a loan.

That eliminates the very costly machinery of insurance agencies we have in the United States.

* * * *

MORE cash is paid by some companies to get people to insure than is paid by them on policies for the dead.

That seems to be a crime in this enlightened day, when insurance in a dozen different forms is an economic necessity.

Accident insurance companies recently boosted by 40 per cent. the cost to a large class of their customers. But when you look into annual statements of companies you discover that the cost of bringing in new business was largely responsible for that boost.

Agents get bigger dividends than do policyholders.

I don't believe that banks, railroads and manufacturing companies pay out half so much relatively as accident and life insurance companies do to procure customers.

Now that virtually everybody knows the necessity for insurance, why is it so essential to pay so much to bring in the business?

* * * *

ONE of the prime insurance jokes is that of accident policies sold at railroad ticket offices.

Railroads tell you they rarely, if ever, permit a passenger to be killed or injured in transit.

Accident insurance companies back that up with a string of their own statistics.

One bunch of such data handed to me recently went to prove that you stand about twenty times as great chance to be hurt in your own home as you do when riding in a railroad train.

Then why the necessity for an accident policy as you embark upon a journey?

But more especially, why the great salvage to those who collect for such new insurance policies?

GIRARD

Byers, S. H. W.

12th Mch 31
Los Angeles, Calif.

Los Angeles
Calf

My dear Mr Terry.

I must have missed your first letter. I am sorry I can relate no important incident, personally known to me, of that great Lincoln's life. I saw him but once; but I voted for him twice.

Sincerely yours.

2914, Sunset Pl.

S. H. W. Byers.

LETTERS - B DRAWER 2 MEETING LINCOLN